

MONDAY 11/27/17

Brief showers. High 82, low 73 >> B5

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MONSTER MADNESS



These massive dwellings prove to be difficult beasts for the city to tame

FIRST OF 2 PARTS | 4-PAGE WRAPPER

By Gordon Y.K. Pang
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As complaints start to pour in over monster houses springing up in older communities from Pearl City to Hawaii Kai, the city's Department of Planning and Permitting is coming under scrutiny. Traditional three-bedroom, two-bathroom homes are being replaced by larger-scale houses that are triple in size if not more. Those living near the bigger houses are fretting about parking, sewer capacity and other infrastructure concerns, and the character of their neighborhoods.

With complaints on the rise, the Honolulu City Council and the city Department of Planning and Permitting are trying to assess and address the issues, which are complex, multilayered and in many ways a byproduct of Oahu's continuing housing shortage.

Some families can't afford to buy a house on their own and are pooling their money with other relatives to buy property that everyone can live on.

But many believe the larger houses are being used for unauthorized residential or vacation rentals, adult care homes, dormitories and illegal commercial operations.

Whatever their uses, many of them meet existing zoning and building codes, prompting Council members to look at legislation to stem the trend.

"It's disrupting the character of our neighborhoods on residential-zoned properties along with other negative impacts

COMING TUESDAY
Honolulu City Council members are learning that existing zoning and building laws allow for much more than people think.

This "monster" home and its ohana dwelling at 1819 Hough-tailing St. in Kalihi have 29 bedrooms and 18 bathrooms.

Please see **MONSTER HOMES**, A2



local
911 Report B2
Obituaries B4

views&voices
Our View A8
Your Letters A8

business
Motley Fool B3
Dilbert B3

sports
Dave Reardon C1
NFL C4-6

detours
Comics E2-3
Television E4



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